THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Festival of India in Japan will take place from April to October, 1988.

(b) The total estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on the Festival of India in Japan is Rs. 400 lakhs.

(c) It is proposed to send some art objects and antiques for display purposes only in certain Exhibitions.

Expansion of Vayudoot Services

*231. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee was appointed to recommend measures for the expansion of Vayudoot services;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether Government have examined the recommendations of the Committee; and

(d) if so, to what extent these have been accepted and the steps taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) In the year 1983, Shri R. P. Billimoria, the then Part-time Chairman of Indian Airlines, was asked to undertake a study regarding the organisational structure of Vayudoot, its present and future operations and the economic viability of operations etc.

(b) The committee made as many as 48 recommendations dealing with corporate planning, wage structure, fleet augmentation, financial viability etc.

(c) and (d) Of the 48 recommendations, 39 recommendations were accepted by the Government for implementation. Four recommendations which were advisory in nature were noted and the remaining five recommendations were not found acceptable by the Government. Vayudoot have already been asked to implement the recommendations accepted by the Government.

West Coast line from Apta on Central Railway

*232. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for construction of West Coast line from Apta on Central Railway to Mangalore on Southern Railway via Roha, Dasgaon, Ratnagiri, Madgaon, Karwar and Udupi, through Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka, has been finalised; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The New Line from Apta to Roha has been commissioned. Survey to evaluate the project for construction of West-Coast line as a whole from Roha to Mangalore has been taken up and is in progress.

Alleged anti-Indian activities by foreign scholars in the Indian Institutes of Advanced Studies, Shimla

*233. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the anti-Indian activities indulged in by some foreign scholars in the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies in Shimla; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) According to the information furnished by the Government of Himachal Pradesh nothing suspicious about the activities of the foreign scholars studying at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla has come to their notice.

(b) Does not arise.

Railway Bridge on Brahmaputra River

*234. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2425 given in the Rajya Sabha on March 18, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new survey team was sent to prepare a report on the project for constructing the proposed bridge over the Brahmaputra at Bogibil near Dibrugarh;

(b) what are the findings of the survey team; and

(c) whether Government propose to review and revise its earlier view and construct the much needed railway-cum-road-bridge to cross the Brahmaputra and to connect the remote places of Arunachal Pradesh with the rest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) RITES who were entrusted with the survey work, by North Eastern Council and Railways, have submitted a report for Phase I of survey giving the estimated cost of various alternative proposals as follows:—

(*Rs. in crores*)

	Length (in metres)	Cost including rail & road approaches
1. Road Bridge	5771	131·67
2. Rail-cum-road bridge	4315	242·49
3. Separate rail and road bridges . . .	4315 & 5771 respectively	279·11

The proposal of rail-cum-road bridge has not been found financially remunerative. The remaining part of the survey, which consists of preparation of designs and drawings for a rail-cum-road bridge, is now in progress.

(c) Ministry of Surface Transport and North Eastern Council have advised that they are not in a position to finance the proposed bridge. Due to heavy commitments for on-going railway projects in the North Eastern Region, it would be difficult for the Railways also to find funds for the above project at present for their portion of cost.